

Flint RIVERKEEPER®

Points



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2011

From your RIVERKEEPER® -

RESTORE, Protect, Educate: Three Legs of a Strong Stool

I recently encountered a person who was critical of an agenda for the river that involves "restore". He pushed strongly to exclude the word and its derivatives from a document we were working on. "Restore", it was argued, is code for "putting things back to pre-development status", a river-hugger pipe dream that is neither practical nor desirable in 2011 or beyond. Also recently, a lobbyist for water purveyors espoused that the state of our rivers, including the Flint, was the "new normal", and that "you cannot have this many people on a landscape and expect it to be like when the Native Americans were the sole residents".

It is always interesting to witness argument by hyperbole. It is in fact common in my experience to witness wholesale displays of insertion of words and thoughts into the restoration advocate's mouth and mind, maybe because the truth is too penetrating.

The "new normal" that such folks are hitching their wagon to is not consistent with the law, including the rights of downstream property owners. The members of Flint Riverkeeper . . . landowners, fisherfolk, hunters, farmers, paddlers, manufacturers . . . know that new base flows, artificially high nutrient and sediment loads, and illegally operating treatment plants can be corrected. And, that is restoration.

Restore and protect are the two arms of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and of Georgia law derived from the CWA. Both are problematic, subject to definition, hotly debated.

There are multiple, achievable, economically and ecologically beneficial ways that the Flint can be restored: damaged base flows, eroded stream banks, blocked spring boils, nutrient overloads, silt overloads, dysfunctional wastewater treatment plants. Each of these restoration opportunities has a basis in the law, community values, or both. The law is not devoid of cultural context, community values. In fact, the CWA codifies the

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The Flint Riverkeeper's sole purpose to serve as a steward for this valued waterway and to ensure the future life and health of the river and its tributaries remains certain during these uncertain times. FRk is non-profit 501(c)3 corporation with the goal of protecting the Flint River in its most natural state for future generations to enjoy. Flint Riverkeeper is a fully licensed member of the Waterkeeper® Alliance.

Taste the Flint River Trips: Paddle the Flint!

Sat.-Sun., September 10th & 11th: Family campout and paddle the Upper Flint near Thomaston: presented in conjunction with :



Saturday, October 8th: Lower Section paddle between Newton and Camilla

Interested in scheduling a paddle trip for your group? Contact FRk to find out available dates and trip routes.

Bovine Springs Restoration Project

Senior Fisheries Biologist John Kilpatrick of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Resources Division has spearheaded a successful project to restore flows from Bovine Springs along the Flint River in Baker County. As the name implies, Bovine Springs served as a watering hole for cows causing active erosion over the course of two decades. Through river surveys targeted at monitoring fish habitat, this site was chosen because of the year-round consistency of the cold water spring flow. This cold water supports healthy populations of Gulf stripe bass, especially in the hot months of summer. A coalition of agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, worked with the landowner and secured funding



through the Economic Recovery Act to implement the restoration of spring flows that had been choked by sediment. The spring was dug out to a depth of about 12-14 feet (it started out about 2-feet deep) and about 130 tons of material was removed. The run to the spring was graded and planted with rye, bahia, and native grass seed, hayed in, and erosion barriers are now in place. DNR-WRD will be conducting periodic maintenance to ensure the improvements continue to benefit fish habitat and water quality spring flows. The land owner is pleased with the project results and is watering his cows at a different location. DNR-WRD continues to conduct river surveys and collaborate on other Flint River restoration projects as resources allow. For more information contact John Kilpatrick at 229-430-4256 or John.Kilpatrick@dnr.state.ga.us



Photos courtesy of J. Kilpatrick

spring post-renovation

2011 Taste the Flint Series Kicks Off

It was a gorgeous Saturday morning in early May when a great group of eager paddlers gathered near Montezuma to explore the middle Flint River. A special lunch presentation by USGS engineer Elliott Jones and shuttle service sponsored by Mr. Jimmy Davis were well-received "extras" to this kick-off trip for the 2011 Taste the Flint river trip series. Thanks to everyone who joined us out on the river! We're ready to do it again—details on additional trips are coming soon!



A group of the Middle Flint Taste the Flint paddlers gather for a picture before launching from the Flint River Ferry Boat Ramp at the GA 127 Bridge.

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a fun and meaningful way to spend some time? Come have some fun working with FRK at these upcoming events:

August 5-7th: GA Wildlife Federation Buckarama: Atlanta Expo Center

August 19-21st: GA Wildlife Federation Buckarama: Perry, Georgia National Fairgrounds

September 10 & 11th: Taste the Flint Family Campout and Paddle Trip at Gerald Lawhorn Boy Scout Camp near Thomaston

Your Financial Support is **VITAL!** Support Flint RIVERKEEPER®

We ask you to give a generous tax-deductible donation today, to make certain one of Georgia's most treasured waterways can be saved for current and future generations. To make a donation, go to www.flintriverkeeper.org OR make checks payable to the Flint RIVERKEEPER® and mail with this form to 211 N. Jefferson Street, Ste. 8, Albany GA 31701, or return this form with your credit card information. The Flint Riverkeeper is a 501c3 charitable organization. **THANK YOU** for your support!

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

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Membership Levels: (please indicate giving level)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35 |
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A confirmation email will be sent to you. Please ensure that we have your email address by completely filling out the form above, as well as your other contact information.

2011 Shoal Lily Report

The magical few weeks each year when the shoal lilies emerge from the Flint's granite shoals was a splendid showing this year. Weather and river conditions allowed for a dense and showy bloom of the lilies. Special thanks to the Thomaston-Upson Chamber of Commerce for including FRK in its 1st Annual Poker Float showcasing the Flint's Shoal Lilies!

From Your RIVERKEEPER® *cont'd*

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rights of property owners, private and public, from the ravages of flow interruption and pollution, the rights to abundant, clean, fishable, swimmable, drinkable water.

"Restore" is not a term to be derided. It is national policy, and it is a workable goal for the Flint. And, that is what we do, along with protecting the river and its tributaries,

and educating the Flint's citizens. The staff, members, and cooperating partners in industry and government of Flint Riverkeeper are devoted to restoration and protection. Your volunteer time and your dollars support that work, and move the restoration agenda forward.

You power and empower Flint Riverkeeper. Keep up the great work and the great support. **Thank you.**

Flint River Shoal Lilies in Upson County

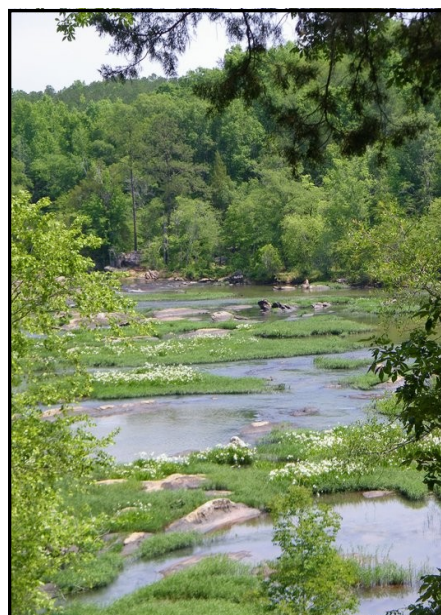


Photo courtesy of Mary Newcomb

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The Flint Riverkeeper was established in 2008 to address the various issues that are threatening the Flint River and its tributaries.

We are working to restore and protect the quality and flow of this immensely valuable resource.

Board of Directors

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Have you ordered your Honeypot yet? Check out the gift solutions at beenatural.com and when you place your order, mention "Flint" for a portion of the proceeds to be donated to your Flint Riverkeeper.



Thanks for supporting Georgia businesses AND FRk!

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Spotlight on Business: Covey Rise Quail Plantation

CoveyRise Plantation, Inc. is located on the banks of the Flint River in game rich South-west Georgia. A family run, full service lodge dedicated to bringing you and your guest the ultimate quail hunting experience. Hunts are set where the quail are plentiful and where every possible preparation is made to ensure an enjoyable and successful hunt.

Flint Riverkeeper is grateful to the Singletary family's commitment to the Flint and the land...and the opportunities provided to experienced and novice sports folk who value authentic hunting and fishing adventures. If you are looking for a



memorable hunting experience along the Flint River call the folks at CoveyRise Plantation 229.336.8600 or visit www.coveyrise.com. FRk appreciates the support and opportunities CoveyRise provides!

A New Way to Support the Flint River

GoodSearch YOU SEARCH, WE GIVE

Online shopping just got more worthwhile! Flint Riverkeeper is a recognized charity with www.goodsearch.com. Hundreds of big name and specialty stores allow you to shop their sites through Good Search and a portion of the purchase price goes to support your Flint Riverkeeper—what an easy way to make a big difference! Check it out today and use Good Search for your online purchases.